



# Village of Fox River Grove

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Village President McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center. Present at roll call were Trustees Curtiss, Knar, Migdal, Schladt, Sepeczi, and Wall. Also, present were Administrator Soderholm, Assistant to the Village Administrator Bechler, Operations Manager Reese, Operations Manager Zintl, and Village Clerk Caesar.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Mr. Jim Durso of 424 Concord addressed the Board expressing his concerns on the permitting process with the Grove Residences development. Mr. Durso said that he has been told that building plans have not been approved, yet he sees footing and foundations being poured. President McLaughlin replied that the old Midwest Construction area has been approved for development for several years. President McLaughlin assured that the only permits that have been issued were for the demolition and footings/foundation portions of the project. Building reviews are still ongoing with Staff and will not be permitted until approved. Mr. Durso asked what the proposed size of the development was going to be. Administrator Soderholm stated it would be two floors of parking which will be partially buried and five (5) stories of apartment units with a pitched roof.

### **VILLAGE PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Village President – None.

Trustee Wall announced that the second American Rescue Plan Advisory Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at the Village Hall and expects to have a recommendation to the Village Board in the near future, based on the information gathered.

Trustee Migdal mentioned the Fall Fun and Haunted Forrest held on Saturday, October 23, 2021 had a very good turnout. Past years there were approximately 500 – 600 visitors, where this year topped 780 people.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

No Comment.

### **SWEARING IN: OFFICER GEORGE ADAM KOESTER**

Chief Waitrovich administered the swearing in of Officer George Adam Koester.

**Village President** Marc McLaughlin

**Trustees** Jennifer Curtiss / Steve Knar / Andrew Migdal / Melissa Schladt / Sheri Sepeczi / Patrick Wall

### **1. APPROVAL: CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVAL VIA ONE VOTE FOR ALL**

- A. Village Board Meeting Minutes – October 19, 2021 and November 9, 2021
- B. Accounts Payable – November 2, 2021 and November 16, 2021
- C. Treasurer's Report – September 2021

**Trustee Wall made a motion to approve consent agenda items A through C. Trustee Curtiss seconded.** Roll Call: Trustees Curtiss, Knar, Migdal, Schladt, Sepeczi, and Wall —all “yes.” MOTION PASSED.

### **2. APPROVAL: APPOINTMENTS, PARKS COMMISSION, JAMES BROUDER**

**Trustee Wall made a motion to approve the appointment of James Brouder to the Parks Commission. Trustee Sepeczi seconded.** Roll Call: Trustees Curtiss, Knar, Migdal, Schladt, Sepeczi and Wall – all “yes”. MOTION PASSED.

### **3. APPROVAL: PROPERTY TAX LEVY DETERMINATION**

Administrator Soderholm stated that it is standard procedure to tax levy based on projections and that a tax levy determination would be necessary from the Village Board so that ordinances could be prepared for approval. Administrator Soderholm explained that the consumer price index (CPI) for 2021 is 1.4%, which equates to an approximate \$6.91 increase per \$250,000 home and that new construction will account for \$609 of the projected \$14,130 increase.

Trustee Knar initiated a discussion stating that he understands the tax burden on property owners in Illinois and is not sure where he stands at this time regarding the levy. Trustee Wall responded that the Village of Fox River Grove was not part of what is affecting the State of Illinois taxes; instead, it is the funding of schools, which he does not expect to change anytime soon. Trustee Curtiss mentioned that the police pension was only funded at around 22% not too long ago and is now at 42%, which she feels is great progress given funding has been available.

Administrator Soderholm added that if the Board wanted to take a different approach surrounding property taxes and revenue, those discussions should take place in the context of the overall Village finances. He suggested that the Board consider adjusting alternative revenue streams in areas that provide flexibility in adjustments, up or down, as opposed to property taxes which do not allow for such adjustments. Curtiss reminded the Board that they did just eliminate the Vehicle sticker program to offset the increase in the water/sewer main rates. Administrator Soderholm mentioned that the new apartments may help reduce future water/sewer rates too if additional revenue is received from the development.

**Trustee Wall made a motion to make a property tax levy determination for \$990,059. Trustee Curtiss seconded.** Roll Call: Trustees Curtis, Knar, Migdal, Schladt, Sepeczi, and Wall – “yes”, MOTION PASSED.

Trustee Knar stated he was not in favor of approving the proposed increases for the individually levied taxes (SSA's), which include Gardner Terrace, Picnic Grove, Hunters Farm, and the Talon subdivisions. Discussion was had on whose responsibility it is to maintain the detention ponds, monument lights, paths etc., in the various neighborhoods.

Trustee Knar made a motion that Staff draft the ordinances to reflect 50% reductions in the Gardner Terrace SSA from \$6,500 to \$3,250, the Picnic Grove SSA from \$6,000 to \$3,000 and the Hunters Farm SSA from \$14,000 to \$7,000, while decreasing the Talon SSA to \$0. Trustee Wall seconded. Roll Call: Trustees Curtis, Knar, Migdal, Schladt, Sepeczi, and Wall – “yes”, MOTION PASSED.

The Board also requested that Staff prepare a list of proposed expenses for them to consider in their final decision at the next Village Board meeting.

#### **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Wall made a motion to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 7:40 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Sepeczi. A voice vote was taken. Trustees Curtiss, Knar, Migdal, Schladt, Sepeczi, and Wall – “yes.” MOTION PASSED.

  
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Marc McLaughlin, Village President

12-7-2021  
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Date

  
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Shelley J. Caesar, Village Clerk